

Inventor(s): GÖRL *et al.*
 Application No.: 09/576,179
 Attorney Docket No.: 021123-0268103

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

Claims 1-18 have been cancelled. Claims 19-33 are pending. Claim 19 represents claim 2 incorporated into claim 1; claim 26 represents claim 5 incorporated into claim 1; and claim 33 represents claim 18 incorporated into claim 1. Claim sets 20-25 and 27-33 each represent dependent claims 2-5 and 16-17. No new matter has been introduced into any of these claims.

II. Rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 16, and 17

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Examiner has objected to claims 2, 5, and 18, but has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In this response, Applicants have rewritten claims 2, 5, and 18 in independent form as new claims 19, 26, and 33. All other pending claims--claims 20-25 and 27-32--depend from either claim 19 or claim 26. Accordingly, all claims should now be allowable, and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the outstanding rejections and issue a notice of allowance for the pending claims.

III. Conclusion

The applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and request a timely notice to that effect. Should questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss the same.

Respectfully submitted,
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